

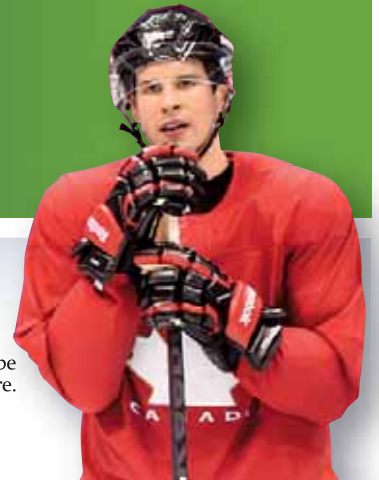
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Monday, February 17, 2014

N.S. 'teetering on the brink'

Report warns of long-term decline with dwindling youth population, poor economic performance **PAGE 4**

THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- **1 p.m.** It begins! Sidney Crosby and the rest of Team Canada open their Olympic title defence against Norway.
- **8:05 a.m.** Marianne St-Gelais, who won silver in Vancouver, could be racing for another medal at the short track in the women's 500-metre.
- **10 a.m.** Speedskater Christine Nesbitt races in the women's 1,000-metre. She's the reigning Olympic champ in that distance.

GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO



LIVING THE DREAM

Nova Scotia's Alexandra Duckworth competes in the women's snowboard halfpipe semifinal at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Wednesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Duckworth finished 17th overall in her first Olympics. More Olympics coverage, pages 20-22. SERGEI GRITS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pay-by-plate parking mulled

New review. Staff suggest tech-driven system downtown could increase capacity, eliminate meters, reduce maintenance costs

By the numbers

500

The estimated number of parking meters downtown, generating \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million per year.

The city has opted to hold off on a parking pilot project around the Halifax Common in favour of a more far-reaching study that could see a new, meter-less parking system for downtown Halifax and Dartmouth.

Jane Fraser, director of city planning and infrastructure, told regional council's committee of the whole Wednesday she wants to conduct a holistic review of the city's parking strategy, which was introduced in 2008.

"It really is a bit of a disappointment," Fraser said about calling off the Common pilot project. "But I think at the end we're going to end up

with a better product."

Fraser revealed the change in direction during the budget presentation for the city's planning and infrastructure department.

She said part of the new review involves looking into pay-by-plate parking, a system that allows drivers to buy parking time by inputting their licence-plate number in a street-side kiosk.

Parking attendants then use handheld devices to determine which cars have and have not paid and issue tickets accordingly.

Benefits of the system include lower setup costs and maintenance, less environmental waste, increased park-

ing capacity and more revenue for the city.

"When you make a parking meter you have to size it to the largest vehicle," said Fraser. "But when you have technology what you can do is have two smaller."

According to Fraser, pay-by-plate technology stands to increase parking capacity by 10 to 14 per cent.

"Getting this done and getting that cutting-edge technology in place will yield a whole bunch of benefits for everybody," said Coun. Wayne Mason.

Besides investigating the feasibility of pay-by-plate parking, the review will examine parking governance and whether the municipality should own and operate parking garages, as well as parking capacity and location.

Fraser said she intends to present a roadmap for moving forward to the city's transportation committee in the spring.

GEORDON OMAND/FOR METRO

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City demolishing 'road to nowhere'?

Cogswell Interchange.
Two key reports being finalized for presentation to regional council

Halifax is one step closer to eradicating the Cogswell Interchange.

Two studies are complete and being finalized for presentation to regional council on how to go about demolishing and developing the interchange, long a lightning rod for debate in the city.

The studies — a technical

report and a market analysis — look at what could go in the space and whether the project would pull development away from other areas, said Jane Fraser, the city's director of planning and infrastructure.

The Cogswell Interchange, known by many as the "road to nowhere," was built in the 1960s and intended as part of a never-completed harbour expressway.

City officials and the public have been debating its demolition for more than a decade.

"(The) next step will be to take the two studies that were done, to present them to coun-

cil and to seek direction," said Fraser during the budget presentation for the department of Planning and Infrastructure Wednesday.

"I'm really excited to see whether we can get right to taking down the street," said Wayne Mason, councillor for downtown Halifax.

Mason, whose downtown district encompasses the ill-fated mass of concrete, said he hopes the project is rolled out in stages over 10 to 15 years.

"I don't think we put all those 16 acres on the lot at once and say, 'Bam — here it is,'" said Mason. **GEORDON OMAND/FOR METRO**

HRM. Council seeks info on doubling budget for accessibility study

Halifax councillors have asked staff to look into doubling the budget for assessing the accessibility of public buildings.

Coun. Jennifer Watts asked for an increase from \$200,000 to \$400,000 for the study during budget deliberations on Wednesday.

"What the study would do is go out and do an assessment of what really needs to be done," said Jane Fraser, HRM director of planning and infrastructure.

"It's just really about being able to answer the question: What are we doing as

Infrastructure improvements

In addition to the accessibility study, the money also would fund small-scale infrastructure improvements, such as push-buttons for doors and washroom retrofits.

far as making our facilities and our buildings and sidewalks more accessible for people?"

The staff report will explain where the additional funds could be found.

GEORDON OMAND/FOR METRO



Canstruction of Mandela the face of Feed Nova Scotia

A photo is taken of a likeness of Nelson Mandela that was made entirely of cans at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Tuesday. The structure was made by members of WHW Architects as part of Feed Nova Scotia's annual Canstruction fundraising event.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

1 NEWS

February might be cold... but **HOT SAVINGS** are on now at Atlantic Fabrics Crafts & More!

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Warmer weather, but... Rainfall warning issued ahead of latest storm

A winter storm expected to batter Nova Scotia late Thursday will bring warmer weather — and rain instead of snow. Environment Canada issued a rainfall warning Wednesday afternoon suggesting up to 50 mm of rain is expected from the low pressure system moving up the eastern seaboard.

In Halifax, meteorologist Claud Cote said wet snow will begin in the mid- to late evening and change to rain around midnight Thursday.

"There won't be much of an issue for people driving

home (Thursday) because the bulk of precipitation will be taking place overnight," said Cote. "Be careful of the possibility of hydroplaning on Friday morning."

Cote said the storm will also bring strong winds gusting up to 70 km/h. The winds will shift to the southwest during the night, raising the temperature to 7 C.

The rainfall warning states total amounts will range from 30 to 50 mm, with the heaviest rainfall over coastal areas of the mainland.

DESERIE MURPHY/FOR METRO



A pedestrian weathers last week's mid-week snowstorm. JEFF HARPER/METRO

VON. Home support workers reject latest contract offer

Home support workers with the Victorian Order of Nurses across Nova Scotia have rejected their employer's latest offer after conciliated talks broke down earlier this week.

About 670 workers are represented by four locals of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union.

Union president Joan Jes-

some says the workers want parity with their counterparts in hospital settings.

The union says a 14-day countdown to a strike will start Tuesday after the conciliator files a report.

The Victorian Order of Nurses, commonly known as VON, is a national non-profit home and community care organization. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Nova Scotia doomed to decline: Report

Now or Never.

Panel makes several recommendations to reverse dwindling population, economy, and bolster attitudes towards business

Nova Scotia is doomed to an extended period of decline unless population and economic trends are reversed and suspicious attitudes about business are changed, a report released Wednesday says.

The economic development report, written by a five-member panel led by Acadia University president Ray Ivany, says the province is in such bad shape that it is barely able to support its current standard of living.

"Because of a combination of economic and demographic factors, we are teetering on the brink of long-term decline," Ivany told about 250 people at a news conference at Pier 21.

Ivany said Nova Scotia's population is expected to decline over the next 20 years as young people continue to leave the province to search for work. By 2036, the province expects to have 100,000 fewer working-age people than it did in 2010, the report says. "You cannot have economic success with a population decline," Ivany said. "There's no way you can make that up with productivity or efficiency gains."

On the economic front, Nova Scotia has recorded the worst performance of any



Acadia University president Ray Ivany, head of a five-member panel on Nova Scotia's economic recovery, releases their final report in Halifax on Wednesday. The report presents 12 strategies promoting expanded immigration, enhanced research and development and revitalization of traditional rural industries. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We tend to pooh-pooh success."

Panel member Susanna Fuller, marine coordinator with the Ecology Action Centre.

province, on average, over the past 20 years.

Ivany said this weakness can be traced, in part, to the province's lack of confidence in its business leaders and entrepreneurs.

"At best, we have an ambivalence toward entrepreneurs and the private sector," he said. "We're much quicker to move to suspicion about their motives than we are to celebrate their success."

As well, Ivany said the cul-

ture in Nova Scotia is such that residents typically look to governments first for solutions.

The panel had a budget of \$800,000. Its report, called "Now or Never: An Urgent Call to Action," offers 19 goals and 12 long-term strategies, some of which call for lofty targets and drastic changes.

On immigration, for example, the panel says the current number of people admitted annually — about 2,300 — should be tripled.

Premier Stephen McNeil said his government is poised to make an announcement on immigration in the coming weeks.

"It's exactly the direction we need to go," he said. "We know we have challenges and the government has a role to

Some recommendations

Other recommendations from the Now or Never report:

- Double spending on research and development to \$360 million
- Increase number of business start-ups by 50 per cent
- Drop youth unemployment rate from 19.5 to 14 per cent

play and we're very encouraged by what we heard We have to set bold targets."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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22nd Commerce Square, the mixed retail-commercial development planned for the city block bordered by Hollis, George, Granville, and Duke streets. CONTRIBUTED

Redevelopment tests boundaries

22nd Commerce Square. Staff report recommends allowing exceptions to bylaw



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

The architects behind the proposed redevelopment of an entire city block in downtown Halifax are hoping their exceptions to the land-use bylaw will be accepted Thursday.

HRM's Design Review Committee will debate a staff report

Be bold

"We're firm believers that Halifax is more than ready to have some buildings ... that are a little bit more progressive."

Eugene Pieczonka, Lydon Lynch Architects

that recommends 22nd Commerce Square move ahead.

"We're delighted to see that they're providing a positive recommendation," said Eugene Pieczonka of Lydon Lynch Architects on Wednesday.

The 22nd Commerce Square is a mixed-use, 500,000-square-

foot design that includes two towers for residential and office space, bounded by Duke, Hollis, George, and Granville streets.

Lydon Lynch is seeking six variances in pursuit of extra space along the sidewalk and fewer setbacks than usual.

At 85 metres, the towers are well above the maximum allowable pre-bonus height of 49 metres, but staff is recommending allowing the increase because of the benefit provided by investment in heritage infrastructure, sustainable construction practices and the inclusion of significant public space.

Ho ho ho, who didn't go? Christmas store closing

After 27 years, Christmas by the Sea is closing due to a lack of foot traffic and tourists.

The independent store on Hollis Street will be open until March 31 and close permanently on April 30.

Owner Michael Pierce said customers that have shopped at his store for years were shocked by the news.

"They say, 'You've always been here; I thought you'd always be,'" he said.

Pierce said the constant construction and deconstruction in the downtown area, the lack of parking and increasing rental costs caused a noticeable drop in foot traffic.

"It makes it not feasible to continue at this point," he said.

When he first opened, people would walk through the downtown core, taking their time to browse through various stores on foot.

"It's not happening like that anymore," said Pierce.



Christmas by the Sea on Hollis Street. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The increase in chain retailers and people buying local wares from non-locally owned stores have also negatively impacted independent retailers, he said.

"We know what the big stores carry and search for the things they don't," said Pierce. "You don't get the same se-

lection of products or service quality in a chain store."

"It's been a privilege to be in this shop for all these years and be a part of people's Christmases," said Pierce. "It's sort of an extended family thing with our customers. We're really going to miss that." DESERIE MURPHY/FOR METRO

Team effort?

Cops seek suspects in debit-card theft

Police are asking for the public's help in identifying three men after a woman had her debit card stolen in Dartmouth.

On Jan. 24 around 3:30 p.m., police say a woman shopping at the Wal-Mart in Dartmouth Crossing had her debit card stolen from

her purse.

They say video surveillance showed the thieves pacing back and forth around the cash register as the woman entered her PIN.

One of the men walked in front of the woman and dropped an item as she left, causing her to stop. The other two walked behind her and took the card from her open purse. Police say the woman has lost "a substantial amount." METRO

Dartmouth

Search results in child-porn charges

A 53-year-old man is facing child-pornography charges after a police search in Dartmouth.

Officers searched the home on Robert Drive on Wednesday. Lawrence Herve Francoeur, 53, is scheduled to appear in court on March 25. METRO

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Edmonton. Backpack offers grieving mother answers in son's suicide

Jan Thorpe finally has some answers about her son's death.

Jonathan Langille's backpack was returned to his mother Tuesday, less than a week after the 19-year-old was killed after stepping off the platform in front of an LRT train at Coliseum Station in Edmonton.

Following the accident, Thorpe made a public plea for help finding the backpack, which had been picked up by a bystander who watched as Langille took his own life.

"The girl who took it called us last night," said Thorpe. "She

was very sorry about what happened."

In the backpack, Thorpe said, Langille left his journal, which included information about why he took his own life.

"He said he was overwhelmed," she said.

Thorpe said the family doesn't plan on pressing charges against the woman, who told Thorpe she was using drugs at the time she took the backpack. Thorpe said she hopes the young woman is able to get some help.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO IN EDMONTON

Ottawa terror case

Reliability of audio transcript questioned

A lawyer for accused terrorist Khurram Syed Sher pressed a police detective Wednesday on the reliability of a transcript of a key

meeting between Sher and two alleged co-conspirators.

In Ontario Superior Court, defence lawyer Michael Edelson peppered Det. Mireille Clement with questions about how she prepared the transcription from secret audio surveillance of a discussion at an Ottawa home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Income splitting exposes rift among Conservatives

Tensions. Powerful Tory ministers make contradictory statements on Harper campaign promise — but who spoke out of turn?

Two of the most powerful men in the Conservative cabinet have openly contradicted one another on a key campaign promise — a split that speaks to the different ideologies and allegiances in the Tory caucus.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty started the ball rolling Wednesday by candidly questioning the wisdom of expanding income splitting for Canadian families.

During the 2011 election, Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised to bring in the measure once the federal books were balanced. Allowing couples with children to split



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty gestures during question period in the House of Commons in Ottawa on Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

their income would mean parents could pool their income together in order to qualify for a lower tax bracket.

"I would pay down public debt and reduce taxes more, myself, but I am only one person," Flaherty said in a post-

budget interview before the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce.

But Employment Minister Jason Kenney insisted the campaign promise would be kept, a sentiment echoed by Treasury Board President Tony Clement.

"We made a platform commitment to introduce income splitting when we get to a balanced budget; we'll get to a balanced budget next year, that's very clear," Kenney said.

So who spoke out of turn? Flaherty or Kenney?

One senior Conservative suggested Harper actually has his own reservations about income splitting. The Tory suggested social conservatives within the party would be more in favour of such a plan because it appeals to traditional families where only one parent works.

Other Conservatives speculated that Flaherty is feeling free to speak his mind because he has one foot out the door.

There have been tensions between Flaherty and Kenney recently over Toronto Mayor Rob Ford. Flaherty is a friend of Ford's, and reacted angrily when Kenney called on Ford to step down.

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Florida boy's killer executed

Juan Carlos Chavez.

Murderer given lethal injection in Florida jail despite Supreme Court appeal



Juan Carlos Chavez THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lethal injection

Drug temporarily blocked

A federal judge late Wednesday temporarily blocked an Oklahoma compounding pharmacy from selling a drug to the Missouri Department of Corrections for use in an upcoming execution.

The restraining order was issued in a lawsuit filed a day earlier in U.S. District Court by Missouri death row inmate Michael Taylor. The lawsuit argued that several recent executions involving compounded pentobarbital show it will cause Taylor "inhumane pain."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man has been executed in Florida for raping and killing a nine-year-old boy 18 years ago, a death that spurred the victim's parents to press nationwide for stronger sexual predator confinement laws.

Authorities say 46-year-old Juan Carlos Chavez was pronounced dead Wednesday night after a lethal injection at Florida State Prison.

Chavez abducted Jimmy Ryce at gunpoint after the boy got off a school bus on Sept. 11, 1995, in rural southwestern Miami-Dade County.

Last-minute appeals temporarily delayed Wednesday's planned execution as Chavez's most recent round of state and federal court appeals focused on claims that Florida's lethal injection procedure is unconstitutional, that he didn't get due process during clemency hearings and that he should have an execution stay to pursue additional appeals in the federal courts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Second bout of winter storms takes its toll on U.S. South

A Georgia Department of Transportation sign warns drivers of winter weather as they travel a bleak section of Highway 141 on Wednesday in Norcross, Ga. The second wintry storm in two weeks to hit the normally balmy U.S. South encrusted highways, trees and power lines in ice, knocking out electricity to more than 350,000 homes and businesses. At least nine traffic deaths across the region were blamed on the treacherous weather. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surveillance

Rand Paul sues Obama admin

Republican Sen. Rand Paul and a Tea Party backed group are suing the Obama administration over the National Security Agency's phone record collection policies. The lawsuit argues that the bulk collection program that's been in existence since 2006 violates the Constitution's Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Dancing in a beer tent part of the job

A German teacher has won a case for a work-related injury she suffered when she fell off a bench while dancing in a beer tent on a school trip.

In a statement Wednesday the court argued it was "normal and socially appropriate" for beer tent visitors to dance on the benches and that the teacher would have unduly distanced herself from her students if she had refused to participate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Classical music

Japan's 'Beethoven' not so deaf after all

The man once lauded as Japan's Beethoven said he can partially hear in a new disclosure Wednesday following the stunning revelation last week that his Hiroshima symphony and other famed musical compositions were ghost-written.

In a handwritten statement, released to the Japanese media through his lawyer, Mamoru Samuragochi said he had regained part of his hearing three years ago. He apologized for the scandal and for failing to explain to his fans sooner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky

Part of gay marriage ban struck down

A U.S. district judge concluded Wednesday that Kentucky must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states, striking down part of the state's marriage ban that was approved by voters in 2004. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Discussion. North Korean demands manage to stall high-level talks with South Korea

The highest-level talks between the rival Koreas in years ended late Wednesday with little progress because of North Korea's call for the delay of annual military drills between Seoul and Washington set for later this month, officials said.

Seoul officials said the meeting was requested by North Korea, which has launched a recent charm offensive after raising tensions last spring with repeated threats to fire nuclear-tipped missiles against Seoul and Washington.

Later this month, the two Koreas are to hold reunions of families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War. It would be the first such reunions in

more than three years.

North Korea also demanded South Korea delay the annual military drills set to begin Feb. 24 with the United States until the end of the family reunions, which are scheduled to start Feb. 20 and end five days later, the statement said. South Korea refused, saying it cannot link a purely humanitarian matter to a military issue. The military drills, which Pyongyang claims are preparations for an invasion but the allies call routine, are to end in mid-April.

The statement said the Koreans agreed to continue to discuss the matters, but didn't say when the next meeting would be held. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



North Korean chief delegate Won Tong Yon, centre, walks with other delegates at the border village of Panmunjom, South Korea on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Georgia tells Games fans to keep out of Abkhazia

Breakaway territory.

The region remains a sticking point between the country and Russia

Georgia on Wednesday called on foreign visitors to the Winter Olympics to keep out of Abkhazia, a Russia-aligned breakaway territory just south of Sochi along the Black Sea coast. The International Olympic Committee, however, said there was no reason not to go to Abkhazia.

Abkhazia declared independence shortly after Russian forces crushed the Georgian army in a brief 2008 war, but most of the world still considers it Georgian territory. Only Russia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and two Pacific island nations have recognized Abkhazia as an independent country.

Russia's attempts to facilitate travel across its border with Abkhazia, only five kilometres south of Olympic venues, was "a provocation aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia" and "misleading foreign citizens," the

Georgian Foreign Ministry said. Asked the IOC's view on Olympics visitors going to Abkhazia, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said "why not."

"The talks and exchanges between the two governments, that's entirely been to the two governments," he said. "In terms of going to Abkhazia ... well if it's safe, people will go there."

Alexandra Kosterina, spokeswoman for the Sochi organizers, refused to comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talks

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that he hoped the Games would help to mend fences and expressed a willingness to meet with his Georgian counterpart.

- The Georgian government responded positively.
- Mutual personal enmity had prevented any meeting between Putin and former Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili, whose term ended in November.



Belgium expected to pass bid for child euthanasia

Belgian politicians assemble at the Belgian federal parliament in Brussels Wednesday. Belgium, one of the very few countries where euthanasia is legal, is expected to take the unprecedented step this week of abolishing age restrictions on who can ask to be put to death, extending the right to children. GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Intimidation. Russian activist gets three years

An activist who shed the light on the environmental impact of Olympic construction in Sochi was ordered Wednesday to serve three years in prison for spray-painting a fence.

A court in the regional capital of Krasnodar converted the suspended sentence given to Yevgeny Vitishko in 2012 into a prison term, according to his lawyer, Alexander Popkov.

"We expected it and so did Zhenya (Vitishko)," Popkov told The Associated Press, adding that the ruling confirms sus-

picious that Vitishko is "persecuted for his activities."

Vitishko and another activist, Suren Gazaryan, were found guilty in 2012 of "deliberate destruction of property" for spray-painting the fence of what they said was a local governor's property in a national forest where construction is forbidden.

Human Rights Watch called on the International Olympic Committee to urge Russian authorities to free the activist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria. Extremists attack northeast town

Hundreds of Islamic extremists posing as soldiers attacked a northeast Nigerian town for hours, killing 39 people and razing a mosque and more than 1,000 homes, survivors said Wednesday.

In the ruins of the burned-out mosque, bodies covered in cloth lay ready for burial Wednesday, including three small shrouds covering children who did not look more than 10 years old.

"Why us? Why us?" one woman wailed, trying to

understand why militants set on creating an Islamic state in Nigeria would attack a town of mainly Muslim farmers.

Numerous villages in the area have been attacked and hundreds have been killed in recent months despite a nine-month-long military state of emergency to halt the uprising in three northeastern states. Thousands have been made homeless and thousands more have fled to other parts of Nigeria and to neighbouring states. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada Bread sold to Mexican firm for \$1.83B

That's a lot of dough. Maple Leaf bakes up tasty deal to offload division to baking giant Grupo Bimbo

Canada Bread has struck an agreement to be acquired by one of the world's largest bread companies in a transaction valued at \$1.83 billion.

Grupo Bimbo, based in Mexico, said Wednesday it will buy Canada's dominant bread-maker with the support of Maple Leaf Foods, which owns a 90 per cent stake in the operations.

What Grupo Bimbo gains from buying Canada Bread is a position in the Canadian marketplace and the ownership of popular brands like Dempster's and Bon Matin.

"The company fits exactly within our strategic soft spot

Slicing off divisions

Maple Leaf Foods is in the midst of a restructuring plan to improve the profits of its overall business, which is primarily focused on meat products. It has already sold various divisions and hopes to complete the process by next year.

as a leader in its domestic market," Grupo Bimbo chief executive Daniel Servitje said in a conference call.

"(This is) a new market for Grupo Bimbo which helps strengthen our presence in the Americas and one that had grown steadily and with little volatility in terms of pricing."

The transaction also ends Maple Leaf Foods' pursuit of a buyer for the bakery division, which it announced last October. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Bosnia. Unrest due in part to failed privatizations of state-owned companies

The recent violence in Bosnia, with scenes of burning government buildings and protesters pelting police with stones, has many root causes. One of them is the failed privatizations of state-owned companies.

When Bosnia abandoned communism about two decades ago, officials devised a plan that wouldn't mean mass layoffs for state workers. It was supposed to be a smooth transition after the 1992-1995

war that left 100,000 dead and devastated the country's infrastructure.

More than 80 per cent of privatizations have failed, becoming a core reason behind Bosnia's worst unrest since the end of the war. Many well-connected tycoons have swept into these companies, stripping them of their assets, declaring bankruptcy and leaving thousands without jobs or with minimal pay. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



A Bosnian protester sets a local government building on fire during protests in the Bosnian town of Tuzla last week. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Auto Workers

Volkswagen to get das auto union in the U.S.?

Workers at Volkswagen's lone U.S. plant in Tennessee are kicking off a three-day election about whether they want to be represented by the United Auto Workers union.

If the union succeeds, the Chattanooga plant would become the first among foreign automakers in the South to unionize. The election begins Wednesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Fourth-quarter results

Air Canada shares hit turbulence

Air Canada vowed it won't be thrown off course in 2014 even though its shares went into a tailspin Wednesday after severe weather and a weaker dollar hurt fourth-quarter results and promised to inflict more pain in the new year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black Wednesday?

Bitcoin's value drops by almost 50% after freeze

A freeze on bitcoin withdrawals imposed by three major exchanges won't cause any long-term harm to the digital currency's credibility, entrepreneurs attending a bitcoin conference said Wednesday.

Bitcoin's value, which topped \$1,100 US in November, dropped below \$630 US Wednesday after news of the freeze. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.93¢ (+0.16¢)

TSX
13,900.49 (+19.50)

OIL
\$100.37 US (+\$0.43)

GOLD
\$1,295 US (+\$5.20)

Natural gas: \$4.85 US (-\$0.09)
Dow Jones: 15,963.94 (-30.83)

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NUMBER OF HAPPY COUPLES: 12

Normally I'd say Valentine's Day is a holiday that should be cut short like its decapitated namesake.

Normally I'd argue it's not a real holiday unless I'm earning time and a half.

Normally I'd suggest that the only reason Valentine's receives any attention at all is that it lands when the weather is barren and any real holidays are far away. It's like a stranger in a bar when the lights come on. Our time with it might be awkward and trashy, but we'll take what we can get.

But I won't say any of that because I have a girlfriend for the first Valentine's this decade. So — just in case she cares — Valentine's is a wonderful, splendidous day (whee!) and I can't wait to spend it with her in whatever reasonably priced restaurant she desires.

As a loving tribute to my return to coupledness, I offer this fragrant bouquet of information:



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

Valentine's Day By The Numbers:

- 1: The loneliest number.
- 2: The least lonely number.
- 3: The soon-to-be-lonely-again number.
- 4: The polygam-est number.

Relationships

13,491,617: Number of Canadians who would laugh in your face if you asked them out right now.

12: Happy couples.

700: Percentage spike in the crime rate since same-sex couples were allowed to marry and society crumbled.

1.3: Median number of children it will take to salvage your crumbling relationship.

580,000: Number of times someone will say,

"I don't know, what do you wanna do?" on Valentine's Day (average three per couple).

170: Number of guys pretending they like Michael Bublé at any given moment.

5: Number of days after Valentine's you can wait before dump-

ing your partner, guilt-free.

0: Number of unrequited loves thinking about you right now.

Gifts

\$356: Minimum amount your partner will spend on you if they really love you.

32: Number of insect larvae legally permitted in the chocolates you're about to receive.

15: Number of years until corporations automatically deduct a minimum \$100 directly from your chequing account as part of a Mandatory Incidental Love Fee, or MILF.

8,732: Number of relationships that will spark with the heat of a thousand suns thanks to the gift of a heart-shaped doughnut.

60,000: Approximate number of bees killed annually for Bee Mine? card industry.

\$1.4 billion: Value of all Valentine's cards purchased in North America.

1.4 seconds: Average time spent glancing at card.

14,541: Number of Canadians unemployed in the candy, floral and gift card business because of you and your friends' cynical attitudes.

Fewer than 12: Number of minutes I spent on research.

ZOOM

Did Russia get this wrong?



COURTESY GREG WYSHYNSKI/YAHOO SPORTS

Rings' colours not tied to continents

No, the different-coloured Olympic rings don't correspond to specific continents.

But you'd be forgiven for thinking differently if you're going to or from Sochi's airport.

Five enormous concrete sculptures of the rings welcome visitors, each labelled in bold letters, in Russian and English, with the name of a continent: Africa, Asia, Australia (pictured), Europe, and the Americas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In actuality...

- International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams says "the rings are not assigned to each continent."
- When Pierre de Coubertin, considered the founder of the modern Olympics, designed the rings a century ago, he chose black, red, yellow, green and blue because every flag in the world bore at least one of those colours, according to the Olympic Museum.

ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait



HANNAH ZITNER

hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

So maybe those piano or violin lessons in elementary school didn't exactly stick, but surely you remember a scale or two. Test your musical memory, or just have fun making music with these apps that turn your phone into a handheld musical "instrument." Warning: This will annoy pretty much anyone in earshot and you will have way more fun creating "songs" than anyone will have listening to them.

Shaker:

Turn your phone into a pocket percussion centre. From the triangle to the tambourine to the tam tam, this free iTunes app has the drum section of your hand covered.

Harmonica:

Both Apple and Android have their eyes on the handheld harmonica (oh wait, real ones are also handheld), but

the Android version lets users get up close with their phones and play with their mouth (option for hands too, if you don't trust where your phone's been).

Virtuoso Piano 3:

Just like riding a bike, once you learn to play Heart and Soul you never forget. Or so no one's ever said. Test the theory and tickle the ivories on your phone.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Canada's men's hockey team plays Norway Thursday. Should fighting be allowed in Olympic hockey?

@CALanuza: Yes, it brings excitement to the game; Remember this guys are pro athletes.. #Sochi2014 #yyyc

@Dweller15: off course, what kind of question is it? What a hokey without fight?

@cndneh: why should fighting be allowed at all?

@Mr_B_Robertson: No. The greater

the threat of injury to NHL players, the greater the chance the NHL won't let its players go the Olympics.

@kkjohal769: NO!! fighting is not necessary send the right message to our young people

@larrington: with fighting allowed, world does not take NHL ice hockey seriously as a sport; it's just entertainment.

@MainStPoodle: Yes. And growling, chasing and biting.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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SCENE 2

An out-of-the-box dining experience

Eats. Halifax chef Richard Julien serving up more than just food at local hot spot



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

Welcome to the Underground.

From the mind and culinary prowess of local chef Richard Julien, known to many as Chef Live, this round of an out-of-the-box dining experience brings together the best in local food fare, mixes in music from country boy Charlie A'court and is hosted in the unique ambiance of the Middle Spoon's Noble.

"This one will be a four course meal — complementary cocktail with tapas. Then a full encompassing evening with food and entertainment where you get to sit and talk to the chefs," said Julien.

Sunday night's Valentine's Day-themed Underground will feature guest chef Dale Nichols of the Digby Pines. As the creator and owner of Chef Live, Julien is sensitive to keeping the Underground Halifax as unique as possible. "We've all bought into the same experience — it's a great chance to all get together in a casual atmosphere."

Julien started in kitchens back in the 1980s as a dishwasher. Young and confused as to what the future may hold, he moved up the line and eventually found himself in culinary school in the early 1990s. Hard work, talent and ambition allowed Julien to travel coast-to-coast sharpening his culinary aptitude for his eventual re-settlement back in our neck of the woods.

From working with grocery store chains teaching cooking classes to small-scale, private catering gigs, Julien launched Chef Live, which offers services ranging from sit-down dinners in your home, stand-up receptions and at-work lunches, to name but a few. With six years of Chef Live on top of years of experience in the food industry, Julien jumped at the



Richard Julien, known to many as Chef Live, is responsible for coming up with Underground. CONTRIBUTED

opportunity to participate in a segment for the reality show The Illegal Eater, a pop-up restaurant show hosted by former Barenaked Ladies front man Steven Page.

"We were approached from producers of the series — it's all about obscure, underground eateries that are found all over North America — they called me and asked me if I had done a pop-up restaurant and it turned out to be a great way to get into it," said Julien who, admittedly until then, had no experience in pop-up restaurants.

Quoted

"I wanted to make sure it wasn't all about me. And for me, it really isn't. The excitement comes from creating and collaborating with the chef, venue, food and local musicians."

Rich Julien

"They set a date and we launched our first pop-up — essentially it's an untraditional restaurant open for one night only." From word-of-mouth marketing and his own stellar reputation in the minds,

mouths and bellies of locals, Julien looks forward to continuing to put his passion on our plates. "I've taken the few things I love the most — food and music — and put it together in one package."

Dig in

- **What.** The Underground Halifax
- **When.** Sunday, 6 p.m.
- **Where.** The Middle Spoon Desserterie and Bar
- **Tickets.** Tickets: \$75 per person. Visit undergroundhalifax.com

visit **metronews.ca**

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Will \$75M deal bring sizzle back to celeb cook's career?

Paula Deen has found a key ingredient to reheating her tarnished brand — a cash infusion worth at least \$75 million US from a private investment firm.

The Savannah-based celebrity cook announced Wednesday that she's launched an umbrella company that will oversee her restaurants, cookbooks, product endorsements and other remaining slices of her media empire. The new company, called Paula Deen Ventures, said private-equity firm Najafi Companies is investing \$75 million to \$100 million to help Deen make a

comeback.

Deen's fortunes took a dive last year after comments she made under oath during proceedings in a lawsuit, namely that she had used racial slurs in the past, became public. The Food Network dropped Deen, as did pork producer Smithfield Foods, book publisher Ballantine and several other companies that paid her to endorse their products.

In a statement, Deen praised the partnership with Phoenix-based Najafi and the decision to name Steven Nanula, who has already worked with Deen for the past two years, to serve as CEO of Paula Deen Ventures.

"I know this is the right decision to lead my team, as we continue to share quality products with my fans — whose love and support have built my brands," Deen said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Shia LaBeouf ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

LaBeouf, are you really #SORRY or is this piece just a pile of bull-Shia?

Shia LaBeouf is sorry. So sorry, in fact, that he's embarked on a "performance art" piece this week at a Los Angeles gallery space entitled #IAMSORRY. According to the gallery's press release, "Shia LaBeouf is sorry. Sincerely sorry. He will be in situ at 7354 Beverly Blvd. for the duration. Implements will be provided." Visitors are invited, one by one, to enter a curtained-off room where LaBeouf sits at a table in a tuxedo with a paper bag over his head, eye holes cut out. He says nothing, responds to no questions, and then removes the bag to show that he is crying. LaBeouf is scheduled to be staring at visitors and crying through Sunday. Fans of pointing out LaBeouf's penchant for plagiarism have been happy to remark on the similarities between this stunt and Marina Abramovic's 2010 installation piece The Artist is Present.

Lip-synch claims hitting Britney one more time

Britney Spears is being dogged by more lip-synching accusations after an Instagram video surfaced taken during her current Las Vegas residency that shows her microphone pack fly off her waistband, pulling her earpiece mic away from her mouth without effecting her vocal performance at all. It wouldn't be such a big deal if it weren't for claims made by Spears' team before the launch



Britney Spears

of the residency. "Britney Spears will be singing live during her show. She will not be 'lip-synching,'" her rep said.



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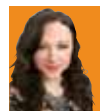


3
LIFE

Guess what's coming to Danielle

Who's that girl?

Canada's Danielle Knudson only told her family and a handful of close friends that she'd booked the campaign of a lifetime. I Guess everyone else is about to find out.



ELIZABETH
BEDDALL
elizabeth.beddall
@metronews.ca

When I meet up with Guess' new it-girl Danielle Knudson, she's surrounded by loose copies of her new ad campaign for the iconic brand. The spread features photos of the blonde bombshell frolicking in the late-afternoon Laguna Beach sunlight.

These images are in stark contrast to the surrounding polar-vortexed environment of our chat, which has left Danielle and I both sweater-bundled as we get warm inside the confines of the Guess boutique in Toronto's Queen West neighbourhood.

But while my pasty face and salt-stained boots give me away as a winter-whipped local, you'd think this new Guess girl, with her sunkissed skin and golden locks, was born and raised along the southern California shoreline. But make no mistake about it, she's Canadian.

You're now living the model's dream life in New York, but you were born and raised in Alberta. Is there anything you miss about home?

I loved growing up in Red Deer — I was there right



Danielle Knudson says her next goal as a model is to be featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. We'd sign off on that!

HANDOUT

until I was 18. And my family now lives just outside of Banff. Going home, I still love going home to see the mountains. We have a ski hill in Red Deer that no one knows about called Canyon Ski Area, which is kind of hidden in the middle of nowhere. I spent many years growing up there skiing.

The story of your rise to

fame is an insanely quick one. As I understand you were at a shoot for another client and were asked to take a selfie, which was forwarded to Guess LA. Guess booked you that day, flew you out to LA that night and began shooting with you the next day. Correct? Yes, about six months ago I got booked for the look book. Paul Marciano came



to the shoot and met me and the agency called me and they put me on hold for everything and the rest is kind of history. It was like boom, boom, boom.

Tell me a little bit about the day of the Laguna Beach

shoot. What was the general itinerary?

The campaign was actually shot over three days. We woke up very early because the lighting was beautiful in the morning — maybe 5:30. It went by so quickly. We would do hair and makeup and go to location, and shoot so many looks. We'd shoot until the sun went down.

Paul Marciano was on set with you at this shoot as well. What's he like?

Paul has been so amazing — he's been so supportive of me. Always told me to be myself. He just made me feel like I'm important to the brand — that they wanted me there.

Flash forward a year from today. What do you foresee?

My life is changing very quickly — I'm taking everything in as it's coming my way.

She's got this in the bag

Purell on-the-go hand sanitizer
\$1.79, purell.com



Benefit's High Beam luminescent complexion enhancer.
\$32, sephora.com



L'Oréal Paris
Colour Riche Balm
\$7.96, walmart.ca



Tabasco Sauce Miniature
\$0.55, tabasco.com
"I put hot sauce on everything I eat."

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Ailyn

Age: 19

Occupation:
Film student

What she's wearing

Blundstone boots, thrift store denim jeans, winter cape from the ROM's boutique, lace shirt from Club Monaco, and Fjall-

raven Kanken backpack.

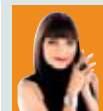
Her inspiration

"Normally I go vintage, stuff you'd find in your grandma's closet. I'm a kid stuck in the '90s. This outfit, however, is my winter hipster look."

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Guess who???? #MtTremblant #WeAreWinter #FreakinFreezing

Fall for a gluten-free delicacy

Cookbook of the Week

Bringing the sexy back to chocolate



The pros in the Canadian Living Test Kitchen have collected their best chocolate recipes in their book *The Complete Chocolate Book*. Chapters focus on the varied, wonderful textures of chocolate treats. Craving an ooey-goey caramel-topped cake? A dark, chewy brownie? A crispy, crunchy cookie? This book has you covered for all that and more. **METRO**

Sweet Week. These Flourless Chocolate Lava Cakes are perfect for any Valentine

1. In heatproof bowl over hot (not boiling) water, melt chocolate with butter, stirring until smooth. Stir in vanilla seeds. Remove from heat.

2. Whisk in sugar. Whisk in eggs and egg yolks, 1 at a time. Whisk in cocoa powder and salt.

3. Pour into twelve 3/4-cup (175 ml) ramekins; place on rimmed baking sheet. (Make-ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. Bake as directed, adding 5 minutes to baking time.)

4. Bake in 425 F (220 C) oven until edges are set and centres are slightly jiggy when lightly tapped, about 15 minutes. Let cool on pan on rack for 3 minutes. Run

knife around edges and turn out onto plates. Garnish with strawberries, and whipped cream (if using).

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Ingredients

- 12 oz (340 g) bittersweet chocolate or semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- Seeds of 1 vanilla pod
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 6 eggs
- 6 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder, sifted
- Pinch salt
- 12 oz (340 g) strawberries, hulled and diced
- Whipped cream (optional)



TOTAL COOKING ABOUT 30 MINUTES

This recipe serves 12. JEFF COULSON

Best sofas to let sleeping dogs lie

Love your pup but not what he does to your furniture? Expert tips on buying pieces that can stand up to pets

Sydney Masters' dog Angus has white fur. But he loves to play and dig in the mud, so his paws are often brown. And that was a factor in Masters' choice of sofa.

"We didn't choose the lovely white sofa that I wanted. No! We chose a rich dark brown leather couch," said Masters, who shares a Manhattan apartment and a home in France with her husband, who is French, and with Angus, a West Highland terrier.

Finding furniture that dogs and cats won't ruin is a challenge. Here are some things to think about when you're buying furniture, along with some ideas for protecting it from fur, stains and scratches.

Leather

Many dog owners report that leather works well as a pooch-proof alternative to fabric. "It's that kind of glossed leather that repels water and dirt," Masters says. But leather might not



"I would always suggest a fabric with a small pattern or texture — a herringbone pattern or small check creates a great disguise."

Designer Jay Jeffers

Designer Jay Jeffers relaxes with one of his two cavalier King Charles spaniels. CAVALIER BY JAY JEFFERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

work for households with cats, who may damage it with their claws, according to the American Humane Association's chief veterinary adviser Dr. Patricia Olson.

Microfibre

Some cat owners say that microfibre, a synthetic, velvety suede-like material, is a good alternative. It's smoother and less appealing to cats than knits or woven fabric they can sink their claws into. And fur —

from dogs or cats — is easily removed from microfibre with a vacuum, lint roller or cloth. Microfibre can also be spot-cleaned.

Fabric

If you own pets and must have fabric-covered sofas, consider this advice from Jay Jeffers of the Jeffers Design Group in San Francisco: "I would always suggest a fabric with a small pattern or texture — a herringbone pattern or small check

creates a great disguise."

And don't be afraid to camouflage your pet's fur. "In our house, the furniture is in similar colours to our pets so their fur blends in," Jeffers said.

Fabric slipcovers with zippers that are easily removed and washed are a plus. Some brands, like Ikea, sell fitted slipcovers for their sofas so they can be replaced easily.

A couch of their own

One way to keep pets off your

furniture is to give them a couch of their own. Choices abound, from \$30 floor pillows at discount pet chains to \$1,200-\$1,400 US custom B-Home brand dog beds, sold at Jeffers' design store, Cavalier — named for his two cavalier King Charles spaniels. Enchanted Home Pet sells classy dog-size sofas that look a lot like sofas for humans. They run \$60 to \$300 US depending on size, style and place of purchase; they're available online and in store.

Covering up

The simplest way to protect furniture from pets is a fitted slipcover designed to stay put and look neat. Matt Kovacs, owner of an English bulldog, Lulu, has tried a number of covers and recommends the SureFit brand. "Without the covers, furniture doesn't stand a chance." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Fantastic. How exactly did Valentine's Day sneak up on you? If you forgot to plan for Friday, let Deanna Lorraine help you out. This San Diego-based dating coach shares her best ideas for couples of all stages.

If you have just started dating

"Surprise her with a big bouquet at her work," Lorraine said. Or amaze your new beau with your gourmet side. "Take them to your place for candles, music and a gourmet meal you've prepared."

If you have been together a long time

"Plan a last-minute overnight trip to somewhere within driving distance or a quick flight away," Lorraine said. Have a look at travel websites to score last-minute flight and hotel deals.

Or surprise your partner with your thoughtfulness.



There are a number of ways you can impress your significant other this Valentine's Day. LUMINAIMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

"Pick up tickets to a concert or play they're interested in."

If you are single

Google can turn up many

singles events happening on Valentine's Day.

"Or create a singles event — throw an anti-Valentine's singles party," Lorraine said.

"And tell everyone to invite any single person they know."

Or how about taking a trip?

"Plan a trip with a friend who's single — a road trip or getaway for the weekend like New York or Vegas. So something you can look for-

ward to together. Make it an excuse to get out of town and away from all the couples."

If you are on a budget

Create couple coupons. "Make a book of coupons to redeem for a massage or a night of me cooking dinner for you," Lorraine said.

Or get scrapbooking. "Make either a physical or online book. There's some great cheap or free software online such as Animoto that you can put together video clips and pictures with music."

If you have a family

Do the kids like to celebrate with mom and dad?

"Create a big dinner and have everyone help cook—and also cook something you normally wouldn't," Lorraine said. "Have everyone dress up, too."

But it's important parents get some time together, too, she added.

"So after the kids are in bed, have a secret date in your master bedroom with a decadent dessert."



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Ashley plays the hero for Moose in OT win

QMJHL. Jonathan Drouin tallies three assists, first QMJHL fight as Halifax nearly blows a three-goal lead



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

Not long after Darcy Ashley had ignited the Metro Centre crowd of 7,055 with his overtime winner, he sat alone peddling away on a stationary bike.

The Herd's co-captain couldn't deny feeling relieved that his squad overcame an impressive third period comeback attempt at the hands of the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles and ended up with a 5-4 victory, halting a two-game slide on Wednesday night.

"We couldn't let another one slip away," said Ashley, who, with 50 seconds left in overtime, slipped the game-winner into an empty net on a lovely feed from Jonathan Drouin.

The Mooseheads played with fire in the final frame. After taking a commanding 4-1 lead early in third, the Screaming Eagles responded with three straight power play goals to tie the contest with 8:10 left.

It was a victory Ashley, who led the Mooseheads with a pair of goals and an assist, stressed the Mooseheads earned.

Not only did Drouin regis-



A stickless Clark Bishop, right, of the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles gives chase to the Mooseheads' Jonathan Drouin during QMJHL action at the Halifax Metro Centre on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Drouin gets dirty

"I thought he did very well for his first fight. I was impressed."

Mooseheads co-captain Darcy Ashley, on Jonathan Drouin's first QMJHL tilt.

ter three assists, but he also had his first QMJHL fight when he dropped the gloves with Justin Hache, after the Cape Breton forward ran over Niko-

laj Ehlers in the third period. And the Mooseheads' leading scorer played the part well. "It was a little bit of a charge; I didn't go for the

knockout. I just stayed there and I think I held my own," said Drouin, who admitted he was seeking a little retribution for Hache's hit on Philippe Gaudry, who's been out of the Mooseheads' lineup with concussion symptoms since the incident on Jan. 25.

"That just goes to show Jonathan's a team-first guy," said Ashley.

Brent Andrews, Timo Meier

and Andrew Ryan each had singles to round out the scoring for the Mooseheads.

Charles-Eric Legare paced the Screaming Eagles with two goals and a pair of assists, while Kyle Farrell and Cameron Darcy also scored.

With the victory, the Mooseheads improve to 35-17-03, and face the Gatineau Olympiques on Thursday at home.

Former Moose Frk opens up about pro struggles



Former Moosehead Martin Frk
COURTESY MARK NEWMAN

Martin Frk admits he was star struck during his first NHL training camp last summer.

Just a few months out of a Halifax Mooseheads jersey, he found himself in the Detroit Red Wings dressing room, seated right beside Pavel Datsyuk.

"I got too excited just to be in the same room with him, especially sitting next to him in the locker room," said Frk. "But he was just a quiet guy, he likes to joke a lot. But it's just unbelievable watching him play."

That was in September, when the 20 year old's confidence was sky high and the Red Wings' 49th overall pick

in 2012 was looking forward to making his mark in his first pro season.

Starting the season with Detroit's AHL affiliate Grand Rapids Griffins, Frk was in for a heavy dose of reality.

"I was thinking it would be a little easier to play pro, but it's very hard," said the Mooseheads' former top-line winger. "The first couple of games I was really struggling, I didn't know what to do."

He would continue to struggle with everything from the pace of the AHL game to adapting to a new team system, where he was no longer a go-

Keeping it simple

"I was putting too much pressure on myself, and I didn't have to."

Martin Frk, on his time in the AHL.

to offensive guy, but a fourth-liner struggling to stay in the lineup.

All told, Frk would endure a demotion to the ECHL and 26 goalless AHL games before just last Saturday when he fired home his first goal as a Griffin against the Rochester Americans.

There was nothing extraordinary about the play. He simply pounced on a rebound and scored on an open net.

That happened to come in his last game before the all-star break, in which he also picked up an assist for four points on the season.

In Halifax for a brief visit this week, he dropped into the Mooseheads' practice on Tuesday to catch up with his old buddies.

In a league marked by player parity, Frk knows if he is to have success it will start at keeping his game simple.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

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NBA. DeRozan on his all-star game vs. Hawks

The Toronto Raptors took care of business in their final game before the All-Star break, defeating the Atlanta Hawks 104-83.

First-time All-Star DeMar DeRozan led the way for Toronto with 31 points, Kyle Lowry added a 16-point, 13-assist double-double and Patrick Patterson scored 14 in his second start of the season.

Patterson started in place

of Amir Johnson, who missed his second consecutive game to rest a sore right ankle.

The challenge of the last game before an extended break is keeping everyone focused.

On Wednesday night, the Raptors got off to a slow start, but found themselves trailing by only five after the first quarter, despite shooting just 29 per cent from the floor. They woke up in the second quarter and

On Wednesday

104

Raptors

83

Hawks

took a 45-44 lead into the half. Toronto had a strong start

to the third quarter, opening on a 7-0 run to take an eight-point lead and force the Hawks into a timeout. The Raptors didn't look back from there.

Thanks to a brilliant quarter from DeRozan, the Raptors stretched their lead to double figures midway through the third and outscored the Hawks 33-21 to take a 78-65 advantage into the fourth quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Silver medalist Denny Morrison celebrates after competing in the 1,000-metre speedskating event in Sochi, Wednesday. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speedskater's sacrifice sets up Morrison's silver medal

Speedskating. Gilmore Junio drops out of 1,000 metres to make way for teammate

Olympic spirit

"It was an easy decision. The guy's been skating unreal these past few weeks and I wanted to see him skate the 1,000 metres." Gilmore Junio

Long-track speedskater Denny Morrison skated his way to a silver medal in the men's 1,000 metres at the Sochi Olympics.

The native of Fort St. John, B.C., finished in one minute 8.43 seconds, just four one-hundredths of a second behind winner Stefan Groothuis of the Netherlands.

Michel Mulder, also of the powerful Dutch team, finished third.

It's Canada's first long-track medal of the Games, and the first individual Olympic medal for Morrison.

Morrison wasn't even supposed to compete in the 1,000. But teammate Gilmore

Junio gave his spot to Morrison because he knew Morrison was the team's best skater.

"It's been a really tough season," Morrison said. "I have been struggling with injury. I just want to thank all the team for their support. Especially (Junio). He gave up his place for me and I would never have a medal without him."

"After what he did, it made it even more special. Giving up your spot is unprecedented. I feel like getting my medal and cutting in half because he deserves it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Weeknights at 6 K8 counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

- 6 Hedley Crazy For You
- 5 Ellie Goulding Bum
- 4 A Great Big World ft. Christina Aguilera Say Something
- 3 Pitbull ft. Ke\$ha Timber
- 2 Jason Derulo Talk Dirty
- 1 Katy Perry ft. Juicy J Dark Horse

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Natalie Spooner jumps on top of Meghan Agosta-Marciano of Team Canada after she scored the winning goal in the third period of Wednesday's victory over the United States in Sochi, Russia. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada wins first battle against U.S.

Women's hockey.

Agosta-Marciano's two goals lifts spirits of defending champions

A 3-2 win over the archrival United States was a big boost to Canada's confidence, but history shows Wednesday's result won't mean much if the two women's hockey powers face off for Olympic gold.

But after dropping four straight exhibition games to the Americans before their arrival in Sochi, the Canadian women could feel good about themselves heading into a

Preliminary Round	
3	2
Canada	United States

four-day break before Monday's semifinal.

Canada and the U.S. already had berths in Monday's semifinals locked down before their game.

Trailing 1-0 after two periods, Meghan Agosta-Marciano of Ruthven, Ont., scored a pair of goals and had an assist for the defending champions

on her 27th birthday.

Linemate Hayley Wickenheiser of Shaunavon, Sask., who was Canada's flag-bearer in the opening ceremonies, scored a controversial goal and assisted on Agosta-Marciano's equalizer.

Charline Labonté of Boisbriand, Que., stopped 25 of 27 shots for the win and stoned Kelli Stack on a short-handed breakaway in the second period.

Coach Kevin Dineen's choice to put Labonté in goal was intriguing because Shannon Szabados has started in all world championship finals for Canada since her shutout of the Americans in the 2010 Olympic final.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Figure skating

Russians win gold, silver in pairs

Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov won the

Olympic gold medal in pairs figure skating Wednesday as Russia took the top two spots to reclaim its dominance of the sport.

Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov had a near-flawless

free skate to move up from third after the short program and capture silver.

Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch were the top Canadians in fifth place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
Norway	4	3	5	12
Canada	4	4	2	10
Netherlands	4	2	4	10
United States of America	3	1	5	9
Russian Federation	2	4	3	9
Germany	6	1	1	8
Austria	1	4	0	5
Switzerland	3	0	1	4
Slovenia	1	1	2	4
Sweden	0	3	1	4

WHAT CANADA DID

WEDNESDAY

ALPINE SKIING

Women's Downhill - Larisa Yurkiw, Owen Sound, Ont., 20th, (one minute 43.46 seconds, +1.89 seconds)

CURLING

Women's Round Robin Session 4 - Canada 9

Britain 6 (Standings: Canada 3-0, T-1st)

Men's Round Robin Session 5 - Canada 7 Russia 4

(Standings: Canada 2-2, T-5th)

FIGURE SKATING

Pairs Free Program - Kirsten Moore-Towers (St. Catharines, Ont.) and Dylan Moscovitch (Toronto, Ont.), 5th, (131.18); Meagan Duhamel (Lively, Ont.), and Eric Radford (Balmertown, Ont.), 7th, (127.32); Paige Lawrence (Kennedy, Sask.) and Rudi Swiegers (Kipling, Sask.), 14th, (103.01).

Final Pairs Ranking: Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch, 5th, (202.10); Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford, 7th, (199.53); Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers, 14th, (161.98).

ICE HOCKEY

Women's Preliminary Round - Group A - Canada 3 United States 2 (Standings: Canada 3-0, 1st)

LUGE

Doubles Run 1 - Tristan Walker (Cochrane, Alta.) and Justin Smith (Calgary), 4th, (49.857 seconds, +0.484 of a second)

Doubles Run 2 - Tristan Walker and Justin Smith, 6th, (49.983 seconds, +0.423 of a second)

Doubles Final Ranking: Tristan Walker and Justin Smith, 4th, (one minute 39.840 seconds, +0.907 of a second)

SNOWBOARD

Ladies' Halfpipe Qualification - Heat 1: x-Alexandra Duckworth, Kingsburg, N.S., 7th, (69.75); **Heat 2:** x-Katie Tsuyuki, Toronto, 9th, (54.25); Mer-

cedes Nicoll, Whistler, B.C., 12th, (43.50).

x-qualified for semifinals

Ladies' Halfpipe Semifinals - Katie Tsuyuki, 7th, (56.25); Alexandra Duckworth, 11th, (32.50).

Ladies' Halfpipe Final Ranking: Katie Tsuyuki, 13th; Alexandra Duckworth, 17th; Mercedes Nicoll, 25th.

SPEED SKATING

Men's 1000m - Denny Morrison, Fort St. John, B.C., **Silver Medal**, (one minute 8.43 seconds, +0.04 of a second); Vincent De Haître, Cumberland, Ont., 20th, (1:10.04); William Dutton, Humboldt, Sask., 26th, (1:10.61); Muncif Ouadi, Quebec City, 32nd, (1:11.07).

HOCKEY

PRELIMINARY ROUND

All times Eastern

MEN

Wednesday's results

Sweden 4 Czech Republic 2

Switzerland 1 Latvia 0

Thursday's games

Finland at Austria, 3 a.m.

Russia at Slovenia, 7:30 a.m.

Slovakia at United States, 7:30 a.m.

Canada at Norway, 12 p.m.

WOMEN

Group A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	3	3	0	0	0	11	2	9
United States	3	2	0	0	1	14	4	6
Finland	3	0	1	0	2	5	9	2
Switzerland	3	0	0	1	2	3	18	1

Group B

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	0	0	5	0	6
Russia	2	2	0	0	0	6	2	6
Japan	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
Germany	2	0	0	0	2	1	8	0

Note: Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime/shootout win and one for an overtime/shootout loss.

Wednesday's results

Finland 4 Switzerland 3 (OT)

Canada 3 United States 2

Tuesday's results

Sweden 4 Germany 0

Russia 2 Japan 1

Thursday's games

Japan at Germany, 3 a.m.

Sweden at Russia, 12 p.m.

CANADA 3, UNITED STATES 2

First Period — No Scoring.

Penalties — Lamoureux U.S. (tripping) 4:37, Ouellette Cda (holding) 10:59, Decker U.S. (Body Checking Minor) 17:47.

Second Period

1. United States, Knight 3 (Carpenter, Schleper) 37:34 (pp).

Penalties — Duggan U.S. (interference) 32:27, Johnston Cda (roughing) 32:52, Rougeau Cda (Body Checking Minor) 36:57.

Third Period

2. Canada, Agosta-Marciano 2 (Wickenheiser) 42:21 (pp).

3. Canada, Wickenheiser 2 (Spooner, Agosta-Marciano) 43:54.

4. Canada, Agosta-Marciano 3 (unassisted) 54:55.

5. United States, Schleper 1 (Decker, Lamoureux) 58:55.

Penalties — Decker U.S. (tripping) 40:53, Pucci U.S. (hooking) 51:59.

Shots

Canada 8 11 12-31

United States 11 13 3-27

Goal — Canada: Labonte (W); United States: Vetter (L). **Power plays (goal-chances)** — Canada: 1-5; United States: 1-4.

Attendance — 4,812 at Sochi, Russia.

CURLING

All Times Eastern

MEN

Wednesday's results

Canada 7 Russia 4

United States 9 Denmark 5

Norway 8 Germany 5

China 5 Switzerland 4

China 11 Germany 7

Britain 4 Switzerland 2

Denmark 8 Sweden 5

Thursday's games

Switzerland vs. Russia, 5 a.m.

Canada vs. Denmark, 5 a.m.

Norway vs. Sweden, 5 a.m.

Britain vs. United States, 5 a.m.

WOMEN

Wednesday's results

Canada 9 Britain 6

Japan 8 Russia 4

China 7 United States 4

Sweden 7 South Korea 4

Thursday's games

Canada vs. Denmark, 12 a.m.

China vs. Britain, 12 a.m.

Switzerland vs. Sweden, 12 a.m.

Sweden vs. Denmark, 10 a.m.

Russia vs. South Korea, 10 a.m.

Switzerland vs. Canada, 10 a.m.

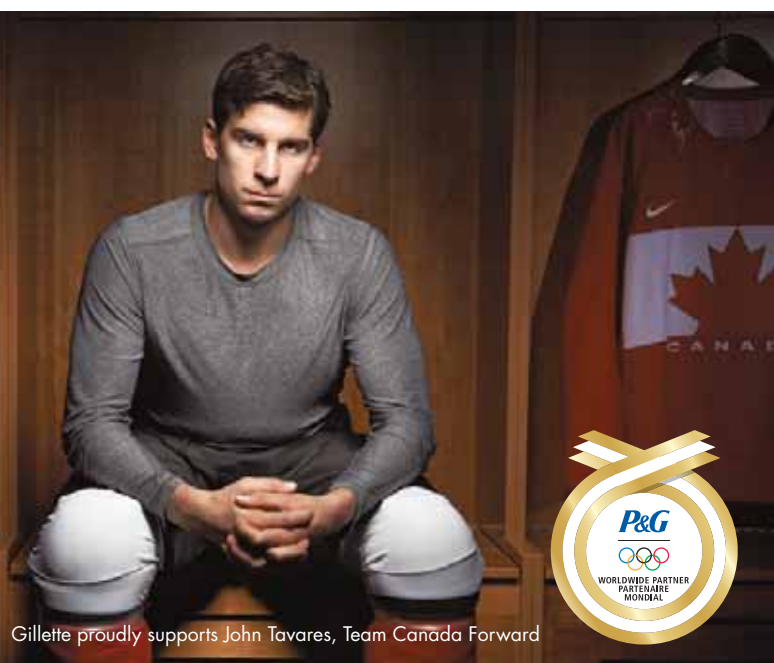
Japan vs. United States, 10 a.m.

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Monkey still on Canadian lugers' backs

The team of Tristan Walker and Justin Smith from Canada slide down the track past spectators during the men's doubles luge at the 2014 Winter Olympics on Wednesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Walker, from Cochrane, Alta., and Smith, from Calgary, were a whisker away from becoming the first Canadians to win an Olympic luge medal, coming just five-hundredths of a second short of a podium appearance. Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt of Germany left with the gold medal. NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Price gets first shot in gold medal defence

Men's hockey. Habs goalie to start for Canada vs. Norway; Luongo will get his turn against Austria

Even though Roberto Luongo finished the Olympics four years ago, he won't start Team Canada's run at defending that gold medal.

Coach Mike Babcock chose to split the goaltending duties out of the gate in Sochi so it will be Carey Price facing Norway in Canada's opener on Thursday while Luongo will play Friday against Austria.

Babcock delivered the news to the goaltenders on

Wednesday, roughly 36 hours before puck drop of the Norway game. Babcock didn't give a rationale for why he went with this order.

"I was going to play one of them in (each of) the first two games," Babcock said. "If I had put Luongo in, you'd be asking me the same question."

Recent performance certainly seemed to give Price the edge. In his past six NHL games for the Montreal Canadiens, Price is 4-1-1 with two shutouts, a 1.15 goals-against average and .967 save percentage.

Luongo is 1-5-0 with a 3.55 GAA and .880 save percentage in his past six for the Vancouver Canucks. He appeared to accept Babcock's decision.

"We're all here to play for

Team Canada, man," Luongo said.

"It's not about one player. We're all pulling the same rope. It's a team game right now. It's not about Roberto Luongo or Carey Price or Mike Smith. It's about being part of Team Canada. It doesn't matter what role you are given, you have to embrace it and accept it."

Price, who will be making his Olympic debut, said all three goalies were all mentally prepared for anyone to start the tournament. That Babcock called on him this time is a career highlight.

"I seem to have had a lot in my young life so far," Price said. "It definitely ranks up there."

It wasn't immediately clear whether Price and Luongo would dress for both games, or if Smith would get a turn. Babcock also didn't reveal if he has decided on a starter for Sunday's game against Finland.

The decision will likely be made based on how well the goalies perform in their first games. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sweden beats Czech Rep.

Karlsson tallies twice in opening win

Erik Karlsson's impressive Olympic debut demonstrated why Sweden has more than enough talent to win it all.

Karlsson scored two goals in his first Olympic game, captain Henrik Zetterberg added a goal and Sweden beat the Czech Republic 4-2 Wednesday night in preliminary-round play in men's hockey.

Patrik Berglund also scored and Henrik Lundqvist made 27 saves as the Swedes opened the Sochi tournament with a display of their formidable offensive depth.

Also on Wednesday, Switzerland defeated Latvia 1-0 by scoring with just 7.9 seconds left in the game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women's curling. Jones benefits from risky shot played by British skip

A missed gamble by British skip Eve Muirhead allowed Canada's Jennifer Jones to remain unbeaten in women's curling round-robin play at the Sochi Olympics.

With the clock running down and her team behind 8-6 to Canada at the women's Olympic tournament, Muirhead could have played an easy draw to the button with her last stone to take a tense game to an extra end at 8-8.

Instead, she gambled on removing three tightly bunched Canadian rocks to pick up three points for the win. The move backfired, and Canada clinched a 9-6 victory to stay unbeaten in three round-robin games.

"It was a gamble but ... that's the skip," Muirhead said. "They get the glory when they make them or the slack if they miss



Jennifer Jones calls a shot during her match against Britain on Wednesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

them."

Jones said she "probably would have thrown the draw to go to the extra end."

Canada will play twice on Thursday, against Denmark followed by Switzerland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men's curling

Jacobs rink back on top of its game to beat Russia

After a surprisingly poor start to the tournament, Brad Jacobs' rink decided to watch video clips of its victories in the national Olympic trials to fire them up.

It seemed to work, as Canada silenced a boisterous pro-Russia crowd and beat the hosts 7-4 Wednesday

in men's Olympic curling action.

The Canadian rink from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., scored four in the fifth end and held off the Russians to improve to 2-2 in the tournament. The win was a welcome relief for the Canadians, who entered the match following tough back-to-back losses to Switzerland and Sweden.

Canada is tied for fifth with Denmark in the standings. Jacobs will look to move up the rankings when his foursome faces the Danes on Thursday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Alpine skiing. Maze, Gisin race to first-ever tie

Slovenia's Tina Maze and Switzerland's Dominique Gisin took different paths on an Olympic downhill filled with flats and turns, jumps and bumps, across slender trees' shadows, along snow that was icy at the top, soft at the bottom.

Any variable could have made the slightest difference over more than two and a half kilometres. Gisin, the eighth woman down the Rosa Khutor course, was good enough early and fantastic at the end. A half-hour later, starting 20th, Maze followed a tighter line, faster than Gisin most of the way, until a mistake shortly before the final leap slowed her.

Add it all up, and they were each other's equal Wednesday. Exactly, right down to the hundredth of a second. Gisin finished in one minute, 41.57



Dominique Gisin, left, and Tina Maze both won gold in the women's downhill on Wednesday. **CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

seconds. Maze finished in one minute, 41.57 seconds. A tie. And so two gold medals were awarded, the first time that's happened in 78 years of Olympic Alpine skiing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted



"Like we saw last time around, things change quickly and whoever's playing doesn't matter as long as all three guys, really, are ready to play."

Roberto Luongo, who replaced Martin Brodeur as the starter in 2010

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You need to be a bit more mysterious, especially on the work front. Keep both colleagues and rivals at arm's length and don't forget that knowledge is power.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you say one thing but do another, you leave yourself open to charges of hypocrisy. You don't need to cut corners or bend the truth. You have so much going for you that you will still come out ahead.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

As your ruler, Mercury, continues its retrograde phase, you need to be on your guard. It's likely that someone will try to cheat you in some way. But now that you know that, it won't be so easy.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Your mind may be working fast and you may have come to conclusions that satisfy you but are you sure they're correct? Listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you, even if you don't understand it.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

One of your secrets could be dangerous if others get to know about it. Make sure you don't say anything today that might give your opponents a clue what you've been up to.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

It's important that you are honest about your feelings. If you keep them to yourself, negative emotions may build up to the point where an outburst of some sort is more likely than not.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Be careful what you say over the next few days because certain people won't take kindly to you making light of things that they take seriously.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

There is still time to make your feelings known. But if you leave it too late in the day, the opportunity will slip by and it won't come again for quite a while. Don't worry that you might be rejected.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You'll get more done if you take a gentler approach to partnership matters. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine how you'd feel if someone talked to you the way you talk to them at times.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may want to be open but with communications planet Mercury now moving retrograde, you would be wise not to give too much away. Anyone asking personal questions is not to be trusted.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If you need to make some extra money then you will have to go into partnership with someone who shares your ambitions. You will also need to have a contract that commits you both.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

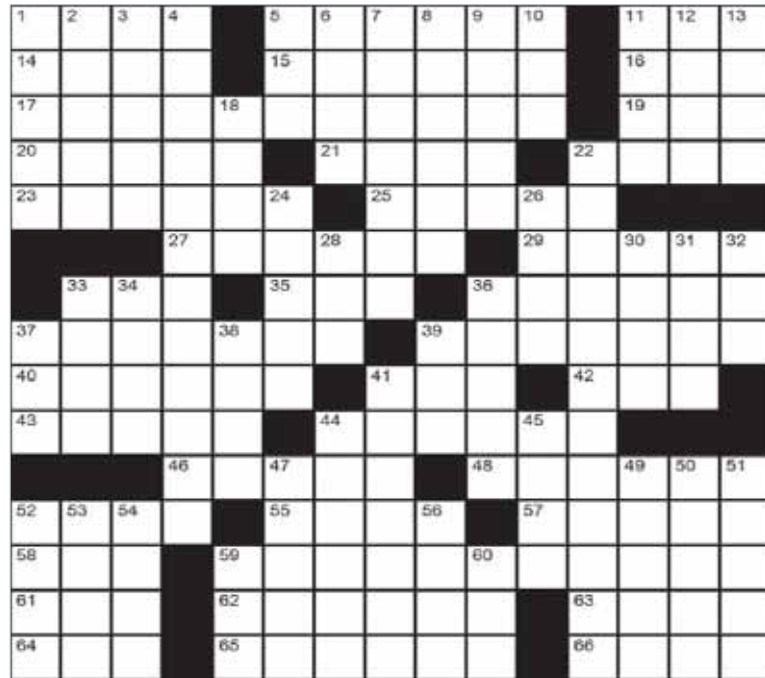
You may not be as ambitious as some but you have no end of dreams you would like to see come true. One dream has your attention now, but is it a realistic dream or is it a fantasy dream? **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Very, in Versailles
- Lightly blots: 2 wds.
- Stir
- Retro-style pop syllable
- "Game of Thrones" actress Ms. Clarke
- Cut back
- "Roxy Roller" band from Vancouver: 2 wds.
- Litigate
- France's capital, colloquially
- ___ Brasi, "The Godfather" (1972) enforcer
- Cob's stuff
- "Man of Steel" (2013) director, Zack

- Lord's house
- Swiped
- Jabbed
- 'Neat' suffix
- Food container
- U2 tune
- Anastasia's family, House of ___
- Historic theatre in Russia
- Sam Worthington movie
- Oz musical, The ___
- Initials-sharers of Miranda's portrayal on "Sex and the City"
- "___", with Love" (1967)
- Roman orator
- Man-made



- material
- Wanting to throw up feeling
- SOCHI 2014 - One of the Olympic symbol's five
- Banff National Park animals
- Trims
- Fabric belt
- Robin Thicke's

- actress wife: 2 wds.
- Guys
- Actor, Haley Joel
- Rihanna's "___ Boy"
- Lumberjack's tool
- Styles
- River of Flanders
- Chef's li'l amounts

- "Laugh-In" co-host Dan
- Manicurist's board
- SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport: 2 wds.
- Billy Williams link
- ___ acetate (Banana oil)
- Tar-like deposit found in Alberta's oil

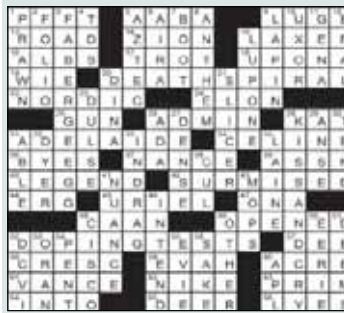
- sands
- BC's ___ Valley
- Mr. Quinn
- Bit
- Too
- Glum
- Airy
- Old depilatory brand
- SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- Revolving mechanism
- German-built car
- Ms. Tyler
- "Jeopardy": 1983 hit for The Greg ___ Band
- Greek Myth: God of love
- Agnus ___ (Mass prayer)
- De ___ (Again, in Latin)
- "Misty" line: "Look at me / ___ helpless as a kitten up a tree..."
- Bakery quantity
- Rodent
- ___ a soul
- Pen brand
- City in southern Manitoba's Pembina Valley
- Structure support in architecture
- Tabula ___ (Clean slate)
- Rent
- Position, fancy-style
- Lyric poem variety
- Lou Grant's port-trayer Ed
- Tomato type
- Wild goat
- Ten - One = This
- Rational
- 1990s fad game disc
- Liq. measures

Yesterday's Crossword

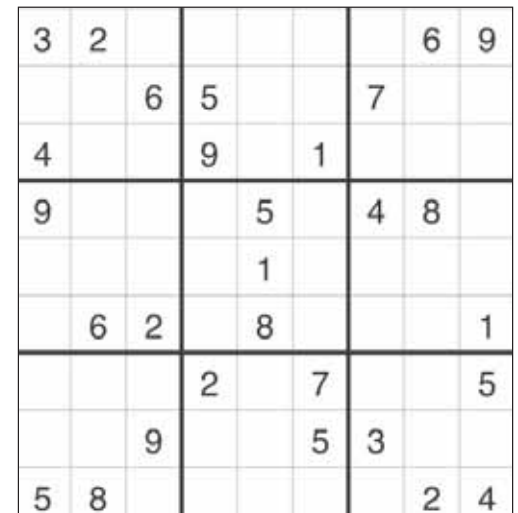


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

-1°/-3°
Cloudy

Friday

7°/-5°
Rain
80%

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